



WARNER RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 25 August 2021

7:00 p.m.

Appointed WRLAC Representatives present in **bold** (term ends):

Linden Rayton, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Scott MacLean, Bradford (10-8-2021)

David White, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Ken Milender, Warner (11-26-2021)

Laura Russell, Warner (11-26-2021)

Christopher Spannweitz, Warner (11-26-2021)

George Embley, Webster (2024)

J. Michael Norris, Hopkinton (11-26-2021)

Dan Moran, Webster (09-03-2022)

Andy Jeffrey, Sutton (07-29-2022)

Peter Savickas, Sutton (08-19-2022)

Patti Furness, Bradford (2024)

Mike Howley, Bradford (2024)

Marlene Freyler, Bradford (2024)

New Business

1. Membership. Welcome to Marlene Freyler (Bradford).
2. Meeting minutes of July 28 approved with clerical corrections.
3. Treasurer's Report - Account is at \$1,350. WRLAC was notified of a recent anonymous donation of \$1,000, which brings our balance to \$2,350.
4. Partnering Opportunity
 - a. George reported that Trout Unlimited and NH Fish & Game will have an unmanned display at the Hopkinton State Fair (Sept 2-6). WRLAC is welcome to provide information at the booth if we wish.
 - b. George also said that he and Ben Nugent (NH F&G) would be happy to have a WRLAC table next to their TU/NH F&G display at the Warner Fall Foliage Festival on Oct 8-10, 2021.
 - c. George said that thanks to Katherine Nevins of Bookends, the booth can be located in the bookstore parking lot.
 - d. Chris will be around most of the day on Saturday and Sunday to man the WRLAC table.
 - e. Laura will send out a sign-up for volunteers to be at the booth for approximately 4-hour shifts throughout the weekend.

- f. Chris will follow up with Linden about completing the trail guide in order to have it to display or hand out at the booth.
 - g. Laura will arrange to have a banner made.
 - h. Ken will bring the binder of maps for display and he will look for the display that we last used at the 2019 Warner Fall Foliage Festival.
 - i. Other ideas for displays or handouts are welcome!
5. Warner Power Corp. and drums stored along the river
 - a. Chair was in email and phone discussions regarding drum storage at Warner Power on Depot Street. Their outside drum storage area is more-or-less on the riverbank.
 - b. The barrels are labeled "Dolphon CC-1305." This appears to be some kind of resin. Ken's research about Dolphon CC-1305 seems to show that it is toxic to aquatic life, according to its safety data sheet.
 - c. ChemStation of Weymouth, MA, has expressed interest in taking over the Warner Power building that is along the river, where the abandoned drums are located. If that is the case, the hope would be that ChemStation would take on the safe removal of the drums.
 - d. Chair is waiting for his request for information from DES.
6. Hopkinton - Riverbank erosion issue on Deer Path.
 - a. Both Ken and Hopkinton residents have notified DES about significant erosion. The hope is that the erosion can be managed with best practices and not just filled in with riprap.
 - b. Chair thinks this erosion problem should be solved with an engineering solution rather than just dumping loads of riprap to build the riverbank back up.
 - c. A citizen's group is being formed to assist the homeowner in moving their shed and landscaping. Chair has suggested to the group that Gomez and Sullivan Engineers (in Henniker) is a reputable company that could address this problem.
 - d. Chair also thinks that Hopkinton ConComm should notify the property owner of the overall objection to using riprap and engaging an engineer to determine the best solution. That way he doesn't just riprap the slope and hope DES doesn't catch up with him. That would be a significant fine.
7. Fairgrounds Rd, Bradford - Excessive run-off and noise pollution coming from private property onto Fairgrounds Rd. in Bradford has been reported (more than once). Run-off and debris ends up in the West Branch of the Warner River.
 - a. The town of Bradford would very much like to address the problem, but there have been a number of obstacles that make this difficult.
 - b. The Bradford Conservation Commission is working on filing an official complaint to DES.
8. George shared the following information for the Committee's consideration.
 - a. The Merrimack River Watershed Council (Lawrence, MA), has obtained a grant to fund restorations within the Merrimack River Basin. Some portion of the funds could potentially be used to replace two of the Ballard Brook culverts in Warner (Red Chimney Road and East Joppa Road). These replacements would be in conjunction with Warner's recent ARM grant (that would design all three culvert replacements and replace just the first culvert).

- i. WRLAC wrote a letter in support of Merrimack River Watershed Council's grant application in March 2021.
- b. In the near future, there is going to be a meeting of reps from several groups, including TU, NH F&G, NOAA, and DES to identify and get culvert replacements on a priority list. We might want to try to get Warner River culverts on this list.
- c. And a third note: TU and NH F&G have a culvert replacement prioritization tool for the Warner River watershed.

Continuing Business

1. Bradford Land Parcel
 - a. Bradford was offered the opportunity to buy a small piece of land at the intersection of Route 103/Breezy Hill Road (NW corner, north river bank). The owner wanted to sell it to the town but BCC sees it as an unbuildable floodplain lot and they might not be able to justify spending money on it. BCC also reports that there was something odd about ownership involving banks and the property across the highway and some error in recording. Not sure what will happen. So we did not send a letter of support.
2. Warner's Groundwater Protection Ordinance - Chair will be in on the next meeting 24 August.
 - a. Warner Conservation Commission has empaneled a subcommittee and would like a WRLAC rep.
 - b. At the Aug 24 meeting (attended by Ken), they discussed applying for a source water protection grant (\$25k) in order to hire an organization like the Central NH Regional Planning Commission to prepare the ordinance and supporting documents. This effort will need a significant education program.
3. Community Connections (Chair). We have been "working" with Warner to update all their land-use (and other) permit application forms and websites to better reflect our existence and need for inclusion during permit deliberations (especially those that do not rise to the level of DES involvement). Ken believes the website aspects are complete. Meeting #1 with the PB was 7 June. Chair is still waiting for Meeting #2, likely Sept 13.
4. Walks and Hikes Guidebook
 - a. Chris will contact Linden to work on making the guidebook presentable to the public.
5. Website - Reps' Revolving Homework Assignment: Provide the subcomm with good ideas from other websites that the Committee can incorporate into our website. Any new blog ideas?? Remember, just a picture and a paragraph . . .
 - a. Mike H and Laura are each working on something to contribute.
6. Other Action Items for 2021 (Chair). Our Appendix B Action Items is our roadmap to accomplishing our goals and objectives.
 - a. Our short term goal is to identify five priorities to tackle in the coming year.
 - b. At the next meeting, we will look at each action item and each committee member will have a chance to indicate whether they think the item is a priority.
 - c. We can then vote on which five to proceed with.

Tabled

7. VRAP Update (Chair). River quality looks good. Monitoring is current through August.
8. Water Conditions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM